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PROGRAM Good Morning America

STATION WJLA-TV
ABC Network

DATE October 3, 1985 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT CIA Agents/Spy Suspicions

STEVE BELL: U.S. officials have confirmed that two former CIA agents are being sought on suspicion of being spies for Moscow. One subject has eluded the FBI agents who were trailing him.

Details now from John Scali.

JOHN SCALI: This man, Edward Lee Howard, is being sought worldwide as a possible Soviet spy who fled his New Mexico home while under FBI surveillance. His secret life as a Soviet double agent was exposed by a top-level Soviet defector, Vitaly Yurchenko, who once directed Moscow espionage agents in the U.S.

Vermont's Senator Leahy, a top member of the Intelligence Committee, warns:

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY: Until Mr. Howard is apprehended, it may be impossible to know just what he has given away. He has had access to a number of things, the release of which could be detrimental to the United States.

SCALI: The 34-year-old Howard, a career CIA officer, reportedly was fired more than a year ago after failing to pass a lie-detector test. Afterward he was questioned by FBI agents, but there apparently was insufficient evidence to hold him.

After leaving Washington, Howard went to work as an analyst at the New Mexico State Legislature.

FBI searched his home after they discovered he had slipped away in the middle of the night.

Officials are now aware of a second American with intelligence connections who apparently met with Howard before he fled. They know his identity, but don't have enough information for an arrest. As for Howard, sources tell CBS News it is believed he fled to Mexico.

Phil Jones, CBS News, Capitol Hill.